

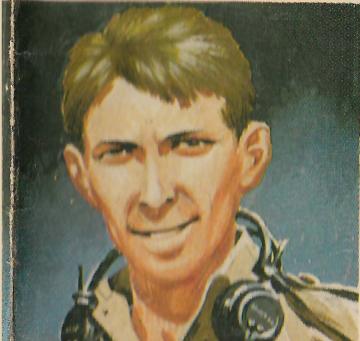
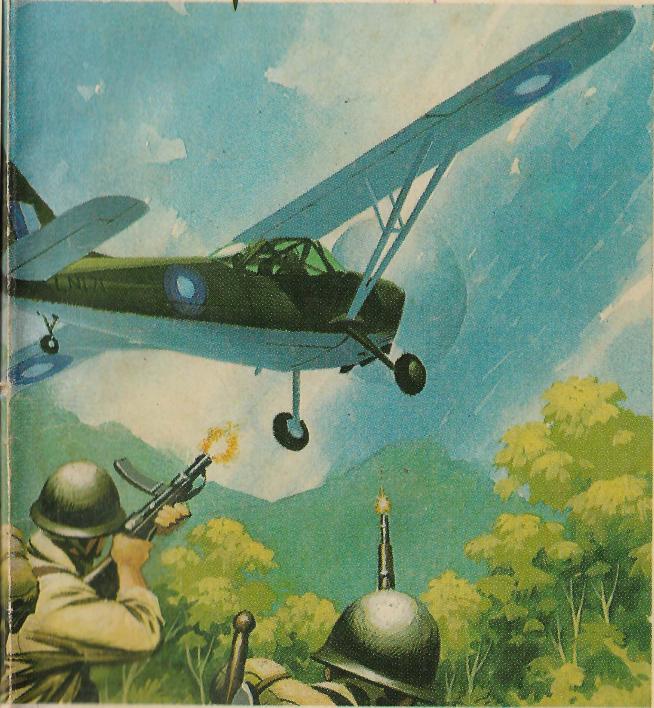
No. 1442

12p

Commando

WAR STORIES IN PICTURES

23c
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INTO THE JUNGLE!



THE SUPERBIKES!

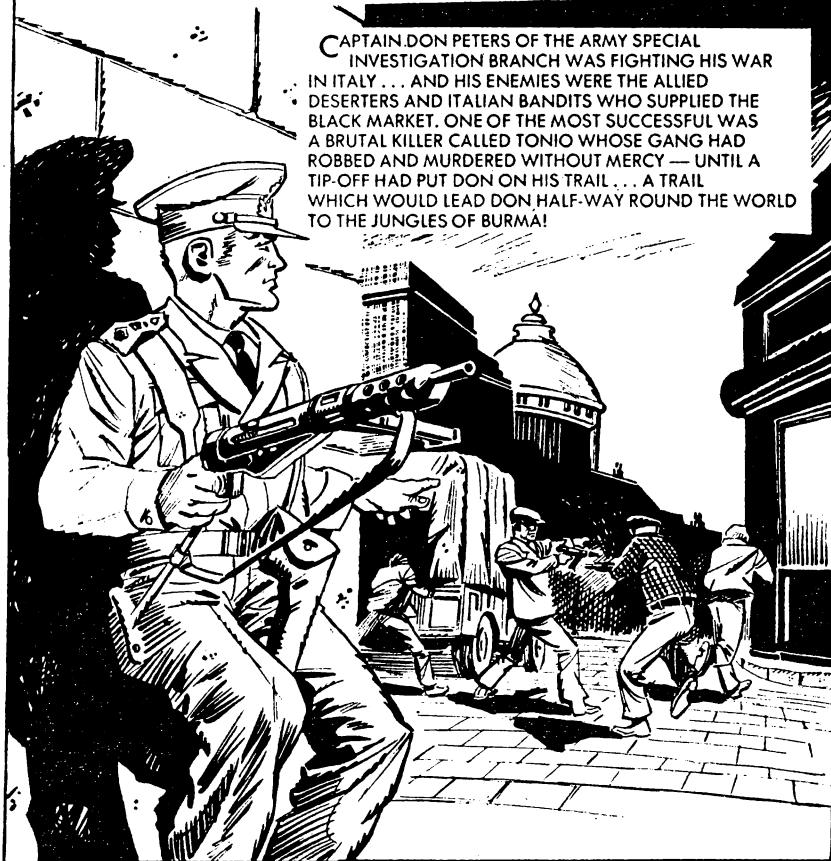
No. 4: HONDA CBX

This big sports tourer from the Honda stable boasts six of the hottest-tuned cylinders and a huge capacity of 1047cc, producing 105 brake horsepower—which means a top speed of almost 140mph and breathtaking acceleration. You could even break the speed limit in second gear on the CBX!

With those performance figures and super-stylish appearance, this is the bike for the connoisseur—the man who is not so much concerned with motorcycling costs as with getting there fast and in style. It gives just over 30 miles to the gallon of petrol and is priced at £2879.

INTO THE JUNGLE!

CAPTAIN DON PETERS OF THE ARMY SPECIAL INVESTIGATION BRANCH WAS FIGHTING HIS WAR IN ITALY . . . AND HIS ENEMIES WERE THE ALLIED DESERTERS AND ITALIAN BANDITS WHO SUPPLIED THE BLACK MARKET. ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL WAS A BRUTAL KILLER CALLED TONIO WHOSE GANG HAD ROBBED AND MURDERED WITHOUT MERCY — UNTIL A TIP-OFF HAD PUT DON ON HIS TRAIL . . . A TRAIL WHICH WOULD LEAD DON HALF-WAY ROUND THE WORLD TO THE JUNGLES OF BURMA!

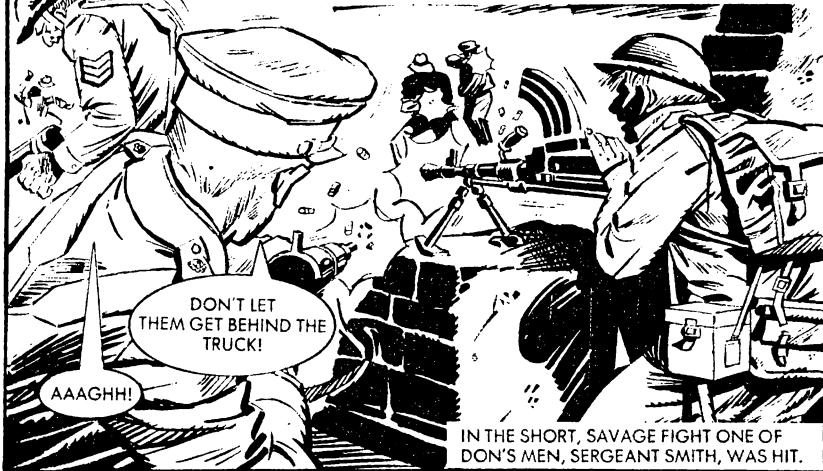




DON'S SHOUTED CHALLENGE BROUGHT A DEFIDENT RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER OF THE RAIDERS. THE TOWN SQUARE ECHOED TO THE SUDDEN RATTLE OF GUNFIRE.



THE BANDITS RACED FOR THEIR VEHICLE WHICH WAS PARKED NEARBY, BUT MANY WERE CUT DOWN BY ONE OF DON'S MEN MANNING A WELL-POLISHED BREN GUN.



IN THE SHORT, SAVAGE FIGHT ONE OF
DON'S MEN, SERGEANT SMITH, WAS HIT.

AS A FINAL HOPELESS GESTURE TONIO, THE BANDIT LEADER, CHARGED AT HIS AMBUSHERS, FIRING FROM THE HIP AS HE RAN. INEVITABLY HE WAS HIT, FALLING TO A BURST FROM DON'S STEN.

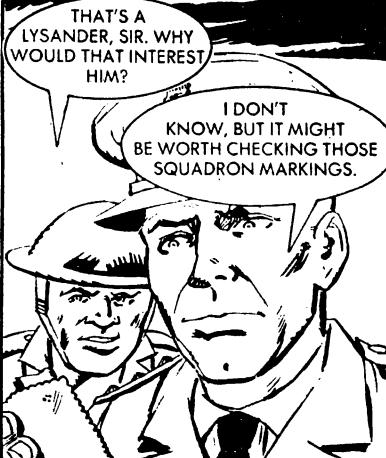


WITH TONIO DEAD THE FIGHT WAS OVER,
NOT ONE OF THE GANG SURVIVING.

FORTUNATELY SERGEANT SMITH WAS NOT BADLY HURT, SO THE AMBUSH WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS. AND NOW DON COULD PERHAPS IDENTIFY THE DEAD BANDIT LEADER, WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO BE AN AMERICAN ARMY DESERTER.



TONIO'S POCKETS PROVIDED ONLY ONE CLUE—A BADLY-CREASED PHOTOGRAPH OF A BRITISH AIRCRAFT.



THE LYSANDER WAS EASILY TRACED TO A SQUADRON BASED NEARBY WHOSE JOB WAS TO DROP SUPPLIES TO THE ITALIAN GUERRILLAS. BUT DON WAS IN FOR A SURPRISE WHEN HE WENT TO SEE THE C.O.



... AND THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT TONIO AND PILOT OFFICER BRADY WERE ONE AND THE SAME PERSON.



AFTER ASKING A FEW MORE QUESTIONS, DON LEFT AND REPORTED THE WHOLE MYSTERY TO HIS C.O., COLONEL HAMMOND.



MENTION OF THE GOLD BULLION CARRIED BY THE LYSANDER IMMEDIATELY AROUSED THE COLONEL'S INTEREST.

THAT'S A COPY OF THE SEARCH REPORT, SIR, SIGNED BY THE OFFICER WHO WAS LEADING THE GUERRILLAS. BUT IT'S NOT MUCH HELP.

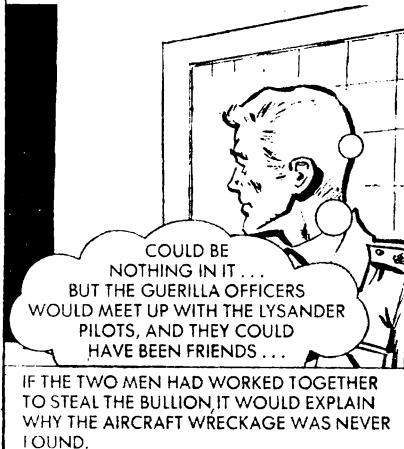
IT'S ODD THEY FOUND NO TRACE OF THE AIRCRAFT. YOU'D BETTER HAVE A WORD WITH THE GUERRILLA OFFICER, IF YOU CAN FIND HIM.

UNFORTUNATELY THE OFFICER, WHO WAS FOUND TO BE A LIEUTENANT GEORGE SPURLING, WAS NO LONGER IN ITALY AS A FELLOW OFFICER EXPLAINED.

GEORGE SPURLING? YES, HE WAS A GOOD TYPE AND I WAS SORRY TO LOSE HIM WHEN HE WAS POSTED TO INDIA.

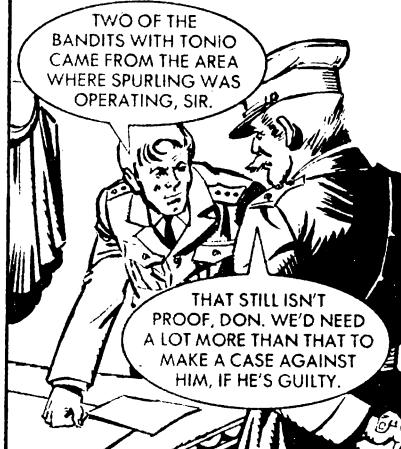
INDIA? I DON'T THINK HE'LL BE ABLE TO HELP US A GREAT DEAL, THEN!

THERE WAS ONE CURIOUS COINCIDENCE, HOWEVER. ON CHECKING THEIR SERVICE RECORDS, DON FOUND THAT BRADY AND SPURLING WERE BOTH CANADIANS.

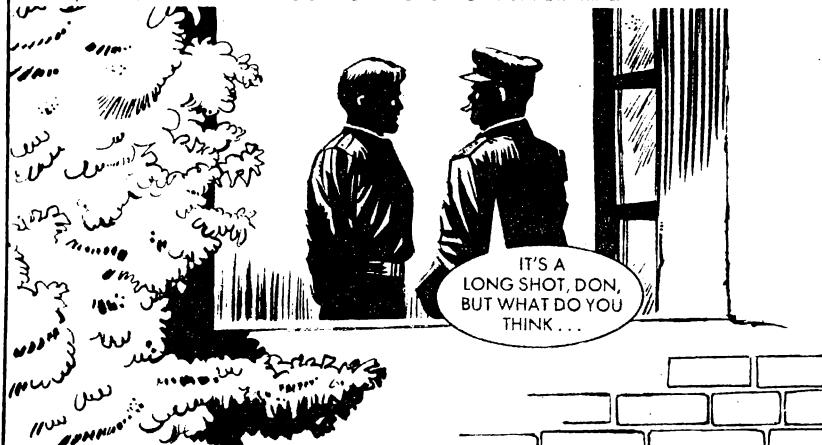


IF THE TWO MEN HAD WORKED TOGETHER TO STEAL THE BULLION, IT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY THE AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE WAS NEVER FOUND.

COLONEL HAMMOND AGREED WITH DON'S THEORY, BUT AS HE POINTED OUT, THERE WAS NOT A SCRAP OF PROOF THAT SPURLING EVEN KNEW BRADY.



FINALLY THE COLONEL HAD AN IDEA. AS DON WAS DUE FOR LEAVE, HE OFFERED TO GET HIM TRANSPORT TO INDIA TO TRY AND FIND SPURLING. IF DON THOUGHT THE LIEUTENANT HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN BRADY'S DISAPPEARANCE OR COULD BLUFF HIM INTO ADMITTING IT, THEN STEPS COULD BE TAKEN TO BRING HIM BACK TO ITALY FOR TRIAL.



DON AGREED IMMEDIATELY, FOR HE HAD STARTED THE WAR IN THE INFANTRY AND HIS OLD BATTALION WAS NOW IN INDIA. HE LOOKED FORWARD TO THE CHANCE OF MEETING HIS OLD FRIENDS AGAIN.

BUT IF YOU
FIND TIME TO VISIT
YOUR OLD PALS, DON'T GET
INTO ANY TROUBLE WITH THEM.
WE NEED YOU HERE
IN ITALY!

NO FEAR OF
THAT, SIR, THEY'RE
HUNDREDS OF MILES FROM
THE NEAREST JAP. THE BIGGEST
DANGER IS SUNSTROKE!

AND SO DON LEFT FOR INDIA, TO CONTINUE HIS INVESTIGATIONS.

THE FIRST SNAG CAME WHEN DON ARRIVED IN INDIA, FOR GEORGE SPURLING WAS NO LONGER WORKING AT G.H.Q.

SORRY, OLD
BOY, HE'S WITH A
SPECIAL OUTFIT CALLED
Z-FORCE, ON THE INDIAN-BURMESE
BORDER. I CAN GIVE YOU
ALL THE DETAILS IF
YOU LIKE.

THANKS, I'D
LIKE TO SEE HIM AFTER
COMING ALL THIS WAY. MAYBE
I CAN ORGANISE MYSELF
SOME TRANSPORT.

THROUGH THE INDIAN HEADQUARTERS OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS BRANCH, DON WAS ABLE TO ARRANGE TO VISIT Z-FORCE — BUT HE WAS GIVEN A FRIENDLY WARNING OF WHAT TO EXPECT.

THE C.O.,
COLONEL BRETT, RUNS
IT LIKE HIS OWN PRIVATE
ARMY AND HE WON'T TOLERATE
ANY INTERFERENCE. SO
WATCH OUT FOR HIM!

N
D
B
URMA
THANKS, I'LL
TRY NOT TO TREAD ON
HIS TOES. I'VE MET CHARACTERS
LIKE THAT BEFORE,
UNFORTUNATELY.

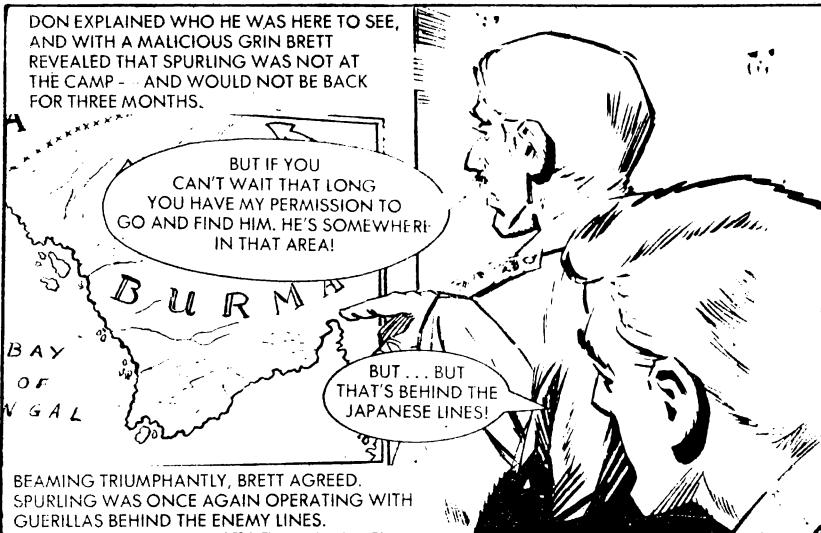
SO DON WAS SOON ON HIS WAY ONCE AGAIN, TO HOPEFULLY FIND GEORGE SPURLING WHO WAS OBVIOUSLY A GOOD OFFICER, FOR SINCE LEAVING ITALY TO JOIN Z-FORCE, HE HAD BEEN PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN.

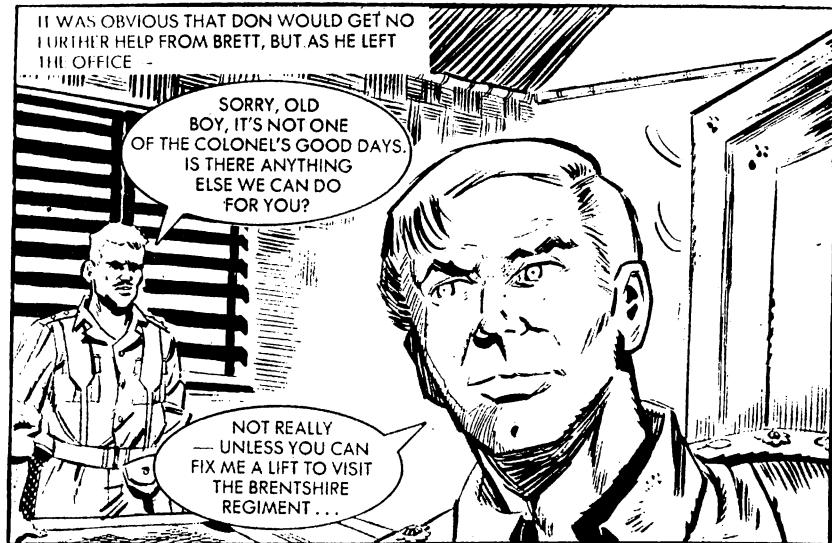
I'D BETTER
NOT MAKE IT DIFFICULT
FOR HIM BY TELLING ANYONE
OUR SUSPICIONS. LEAST OF ALL
COLONEL BRETT, IF HE'S
AS BAD AS THEY SAY
HE IS!

WHEN HE MET THE COLONEL, DON SOON REALISED WHY HE HAD BEEN WARNED TO TREAD WARILY.



DON EXPLAINED WHO HE WAS HERE TO SEE, AND WITH A MALICIOUS GRIN BRETT REVEALED THAT SPURLING WAS NOT AT THE CAMP - AND WOULD NOT BE BACK FOR THREE MONTHS.





FROM THE STAFF OFFICER DON LEARNED THAT A STINSON SENTINEL LIGHT TRANSPORT PLANE MADE INFREQUENT VISITS TO PICK UP REPORTS OR CASUALTIES FROM SPURLING'S REMOTE JUNGLE AIRSTRIP.



THE FOLLOWING MORNING DON MET HIS NEW FRIEND AT THE NEARBY AIRSTRIP. BUT AS THE AIRCRAFT WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE, A JEEP APPROACHED AND A FURIOUS COLONEL BRETT JUMPED OUT.



DON WAITED UNTIL THE COLONEL PAUSED FOR BREATH, THEN QUIETLY POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD GIVEN PERMISSION HIMSELF.

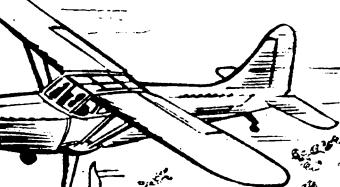


FOR A MOMENT DON THOUGHT THE COLONEL WAS GOING TO ORDER HIM OFF THE AIRFIELD, THEN HE TURNED AND STORMED OFF.

YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE LAST OF THIS, CAPTAIN — AND IF YOU CAUSE ANY TROUBLE WITH MY FORWARD UNITS, YOU'LL REGRET IT!

YOU'D BETTER STAY OUT OF HIS WAY WHEN YOU GET BACK, OLD BOY.

CLIMBING THANKFULLY ABOARD THE SENTINEL, DON AT LAST SET OFF ON HIS LONG JOURNEY OVER THE JUNGLE, HOPEFULLY TO A MEETING WITH GEORGE SPURLING.



I'LL WORRY ABOUT THE POMPOUS OLD FOOL WHEN I GET BACK — RIGHT NOW MY PROBLEM IS GEORGE SPURLING!

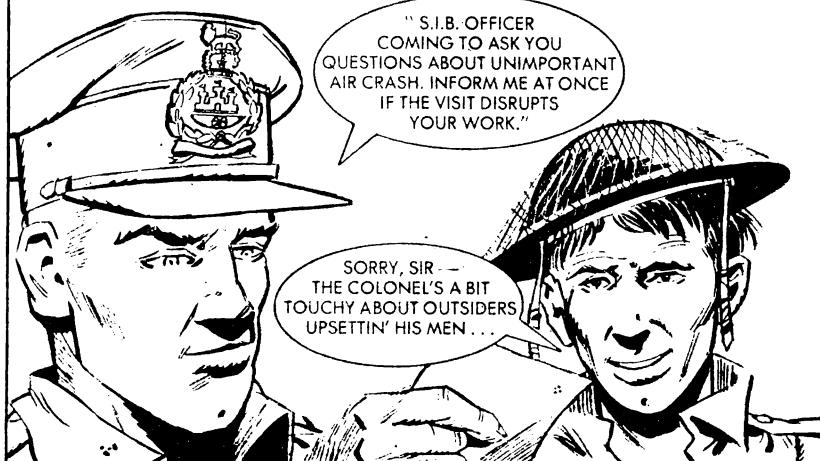
THE TRIP WAS BUMPY BUT UNEVENTFUL, AND ENDED IN A TINY CLEARING FAR BEHIND THE JAPANESE LINES. A BRITISH CORPORAL AND A SMALL BAND OF BURMESE GUERILLAS WATCHED THE AIRCRAFT LAND.



TO DON'S ANNOYANCE MARK DEAN WAS EXPECTING HIM, FOR A SIGNAL HAD JUST BEEN RECEIVED FROM COLONEL BRETT.

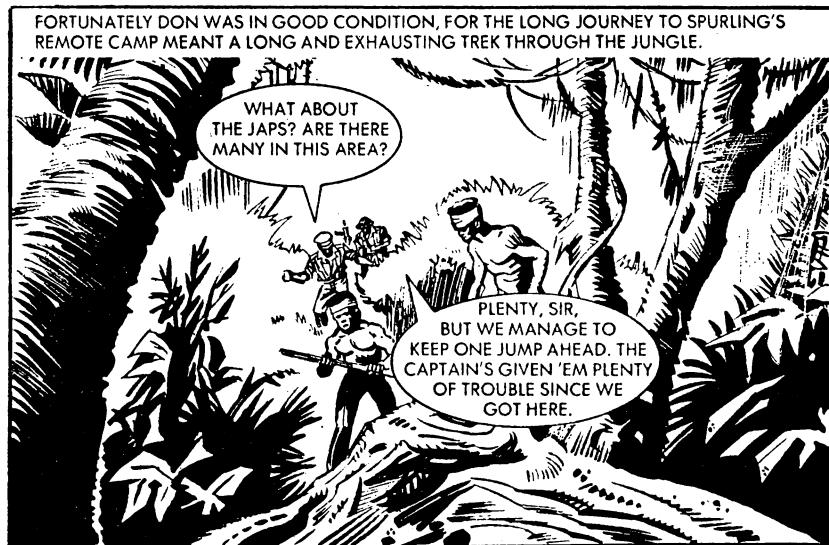


SOMEWHAT RELUCTANTLY, MARK PRODUCED THE SIGNAL THAT BRETT HAD SENT AND DON READ IT.

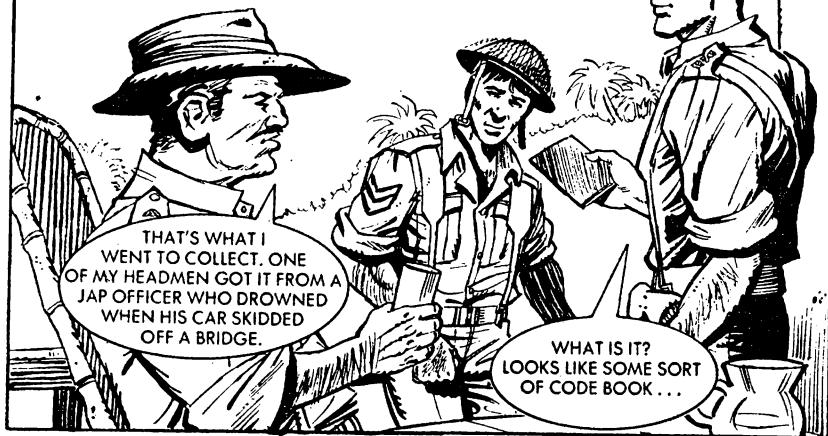


IT WAS ALL DON NEEDED — AND AFTER CURTLY INFORMING THE PILOT TO LEAVE WITHOUT HIM, HE PREPARED TO SET OFF FOR Z-FORCE BASE WITH CORPORAL DEAN AND THE GUERRILLAS.





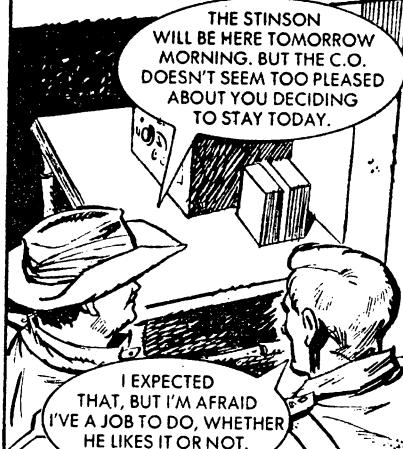
IT WAS ALMOST TWO HOURS BEFORE GEORGE SPURLING ARRIVED, AND HE WAS SURPRISED TO SEE HIS VISITOR. HE QUICKLY EXPLAINED WHY HE HAD BEEN AWAY.



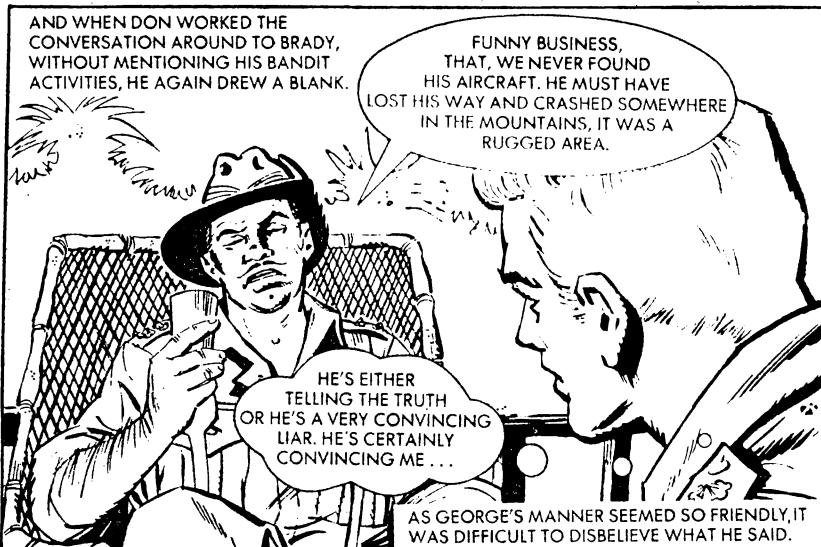
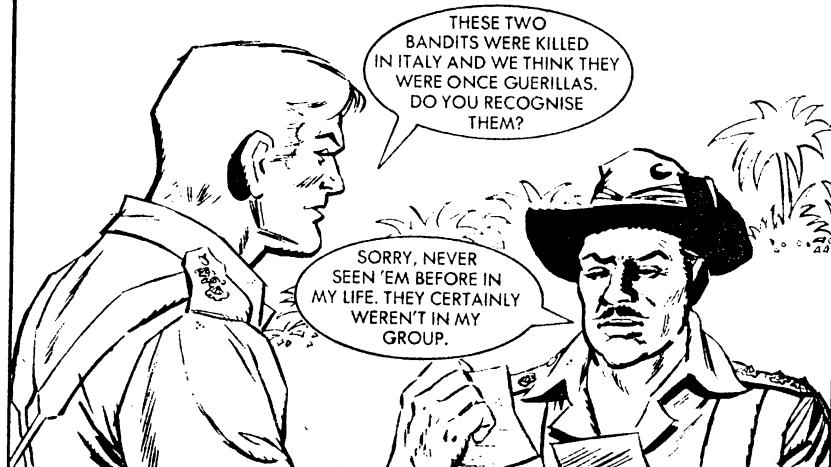
GEORGE EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS A JAPANESE SIGNALS CODE BOOK, AND OF VITAL INTEREST TO BRITISH INTELLIGENCE.

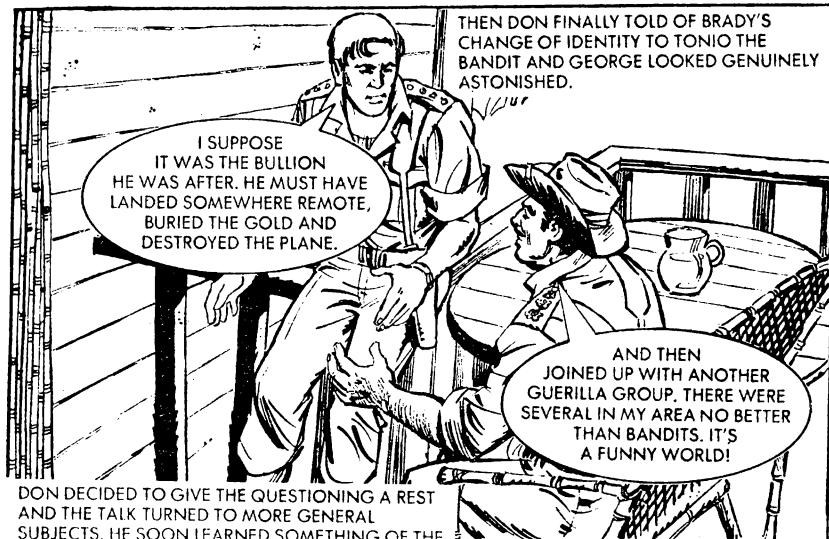


AFTER HE HAD FINISHED TALKING WITH COLONEL BRETT ON THE RADIO, GEORGE GRINNED —



WHILE MARK ORGANISED THE POSTING OF SENTRIES THE TWO OFFICERS SETTLED DOWN AT LAST TO TALK. DON BEGAN BY SHOWING GEORGE SOME PHOTOGRAPHS —

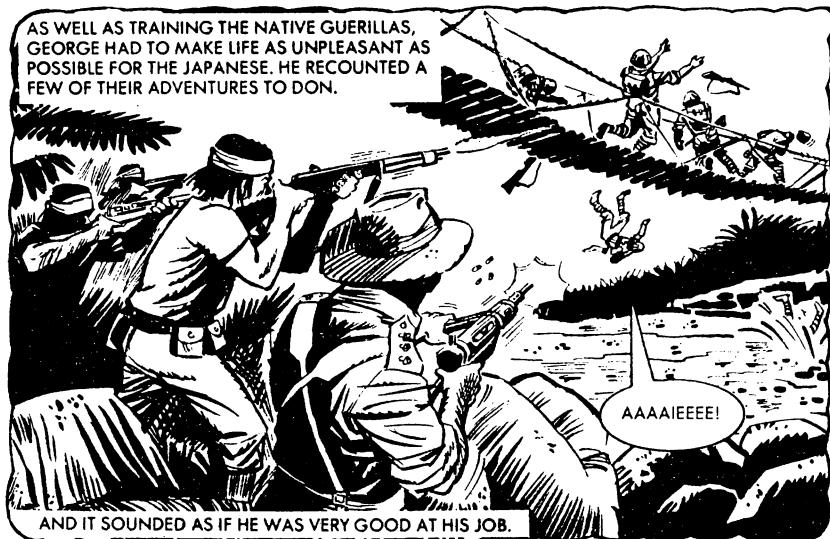




DON DECIDED TO GIVE THE QUESTIONING A REST AND THE TALK TURNED TO MORE GENERAL SUBJECTS. HE SOON LEARNED SOMETHING OF THE WORK THE GUERRILLAS WERE DOING AS MARK BRANDISHED A VERY DANGEROUS-LOOKING JAPANESE SAMURAI SWORD.



AS WELL AS TRAINING THE NATIVE GUERRILLAS, GEORGE HAD TO MAKE LIFE AS UNPLEASANT AS POSSIBLE FOR THE JAPANESE. HE RECOUNTED A FEW OF THEIR ADVENTURES TO DON.



THAT NIGHT, CURLED IN BORROWED BLANKETS AND KEPT AWAKE BY THE JUNGLE NOISES, DON HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO THINK.

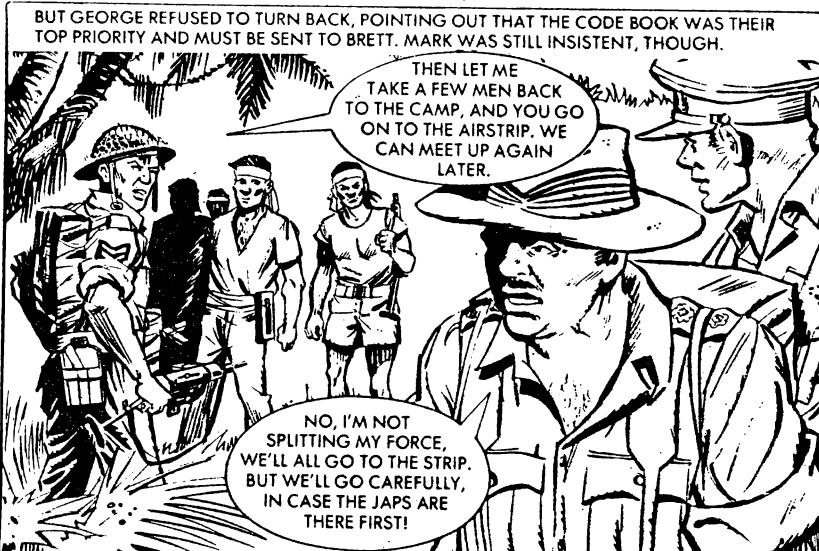
I DON'T SEE
HOW HE COULD HAVE
BEEN INVOLVED WITH BRADY.
AND EVEN IF HE WAS, THERE'S NO
WAY WE'LL EVER
PROVE IT ...

SO DON WOULD HAVE TO RETURN TO G.H.Q. WITHOUT ANY EVIDENCE, AND THE MYSTERY STILL UNEXPLAINED.

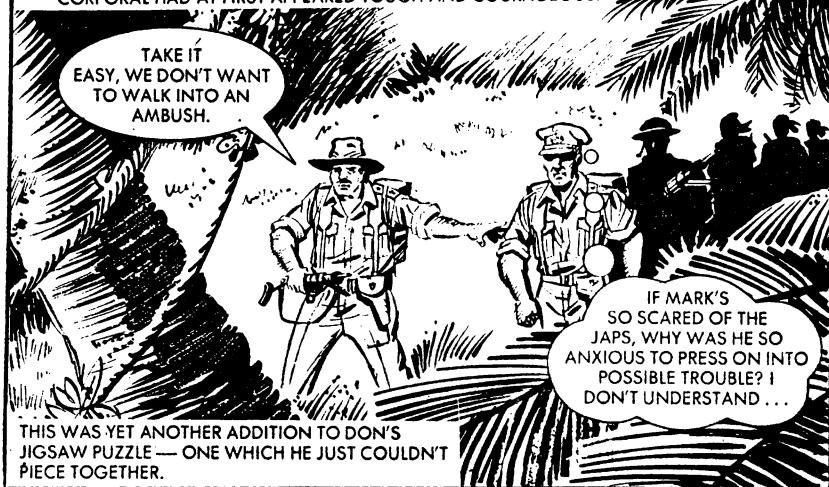
EARLY THE NEXT MORNING THEY SET OFF FOR THE AIRSTRIP, WITH DON CARRYING THE PRECIOUS CODE BOOK WHICH HE WOULD DELIVER TO COLONEL BRETT.

I HOPE THE
COLONEL ISN'T TOO
ROUGH ON YOU WHEN
YOU GET BACK.

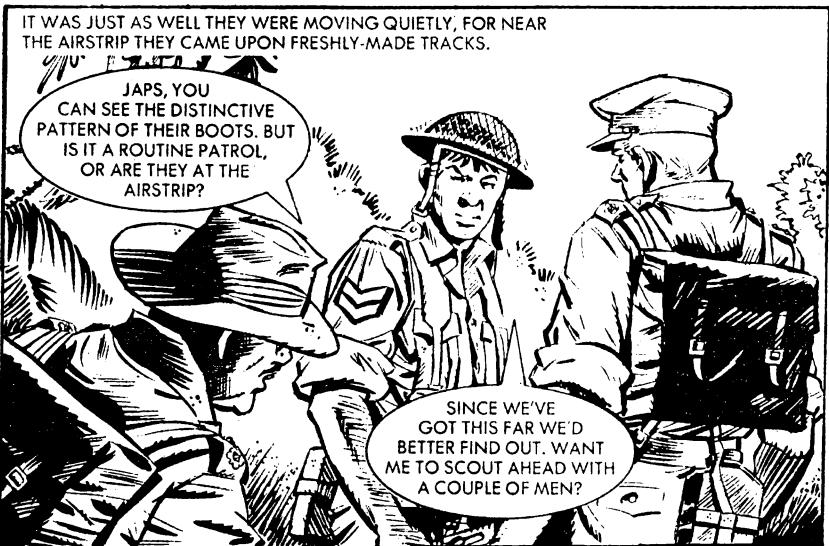
I CERTAINLY
HOPE NOT.



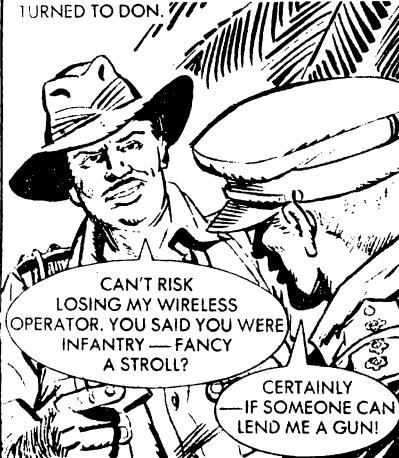
THEY MOVED ON CAUTIOUSLY AND DON FOUND MARK'S ANXIETY SURPRISING, FOR THE CORPORAL HAD AT FIRST APPEARED TOUGH AND COURAGEOUS.



THIS WAS YET ANOTHER ADDITION TO DON'S JIGSAW PUZZLE — ONE WHICH HE JUST COULDN'T PIECE TOGETHER.



MARK'S ANXIETY WAS OBVIOUSLY NOT DUE TO ANY FEAR OF THE JAPANESE, BUT GEORGE WAVED ASIDE HIS OFFER AND TURNED TO DON.



WITH A STEN BELONGING TO ONE OF THE GUERRILLAS, DON FOLLOWED GEORGE INTO THE TANGLED UNDERGROWTH TO SCOUT AHEAD.



GEORGE'S FEARS WERE WELL-FOUNDED, FOR AS THEY APPROACHED THE AIRSTRIPE THEY CAME UPON THE JAPANESE, READY AND WAITING.



HURRYING BACK TO THE OTHERS, GEORGE IMMEDIATELY ESTABLISHED WIRELESS CONTACT WITH THE R.A.F. TO WARN OF THE DANGER.



THEN, JUST AS THEY MOVED OFF, THEY ENCOUNTERED MORE JAPANESE APPROACHING THE AIRSTRIP.



IT WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME DON HAD BEEN UNDER FIRE, BUT HE APPRECIATED THE COOL EFFICIENCY OF THE GUERRILLAS AS THEY HALTED THE ADVANCING JAPS.



KNOWING THE SHOOTING WOULD BRING MORE JAPS TO THE SCENE, GEORGE HASTILY WITHDREW HIS SMALL FORCE EVEN AS A PERFECTLY-THROWN GRENADE CLAIMED MORE OF THEIR OPPONENTS.



PAUSING ONLY TO SET A FEW BOOBY-TRAPS TO DELAY ANY PURSUITERS, THEY HEADED SWIFTLY BACK TO THEIR CAMP.

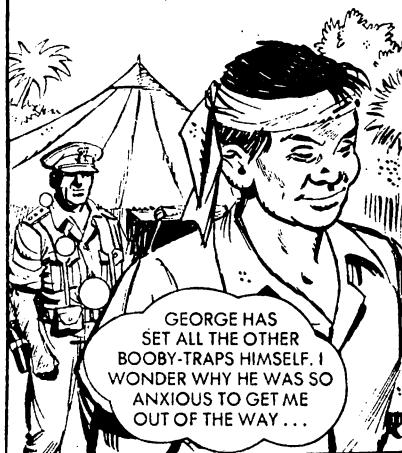


THEY APPROACHED THE CAMP CAUTIOUSLY, IN CASE THE JAPS HAD GOT THERE FIRST, BUT ALL WAS WELL, AS ONE OF THE GUERRILLAS SCOUTING AHEAD REPORTED.





BUTAI WAS GEORGE'S BURMESE
INTERPRETER. BUT AS HE HURRIED OFF TO
COLLECT SOME GRENADES, DON HAD TIME
FOR REFLECTION.



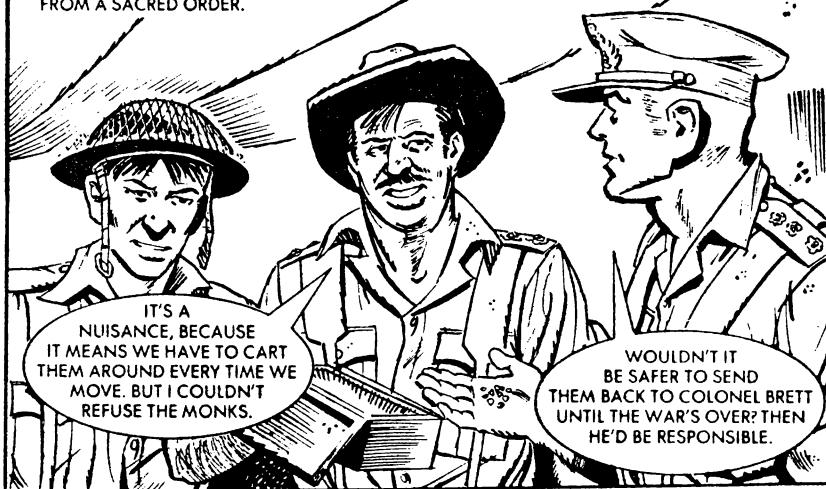
ALMOST ASHAMED OF HIS RENEWED
SUSPICIONS, DON RETURNED QUIETLY TO
THE TENT AND ENTERED.



THERE WAS NO MISTAKING THE SOUND OF HURRIED DIGGING, AND AS DON ENTERED THE INNER PART, HE WAS CONFRONTED BY THE SIGHT OF GEORGE AND MARK GREEDILY EYEING A BOX OF VALUABLE-LOOKING GEMS.



BOTH MEN SUDDENLY LOOKED EMBARRASSED, AND GEORGE EXPLAINED THAT THE RUBIES WERE TEMPLE TREASURES THAT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO HIM FOR SAFE KEEPING BY MONKS FROM A SACRED ORDER.



GEORGE OBVIOUSLY DETECTED DON'S SUSPICION, AND TRIED TO CONVINCE HIM THERE WAS NOTHING FISHY GOING ON.

DON'T WORRY,
THEY'VE ALL BEEN
CHECKED AND LISTED. ANYWAY,
MARK CAN LOOK AFTER THEM
WHILE I HELP YOU SET
THE BOOBY-TRAPS.

I WONDER IF
THAT'S WHY HE DIDN'T
WANT MARK TO COME BACK ON
HIS OWN? MAYBE HE DOESN'T
TRUST HIM TOO
FAR ...

WHATEVER HIS REASONS, GEORGE SEEMED CHEERFUL ENOUGH AS THEY SET THE REMAINING BOOBY-TRAPS ON THE TRACK.

THAT'S PROBABLY
THE NEAREST I'LL EVER
GET TO A FORTUNE. BUT
RUBIES AREN'T MUCH GOOD
TO ANYONE IN THE
JUNGLE.

NO, BUT
THEY'RE JOLLY USEFUL
ANYWHERE ELSE . . . AND I
WONDER WHAT PLANS YOU
HAD FOR THEM
EVENTUALLY?

WITH DON AS SUSPICIOUS AS EVER
AGAIN, THEY CARRIED ON WITH THE JOB
BEFORE RETURNING TO THE CAMP.

MEANWHILE MARK HAD ORGANISED PORTERS FROM A NATIVE TRIBE WHO LIVED NEAR THE CAMP TO CARRY THEIR STORES.



ONCE THE PORTERS CARRYING THE PRECIOUS STORES WERE ON THEIR WAY, ONLY THE FIGHTING MEN REMAINED. THEY DID THE BEST THEY COULD TO COVER THEIR TRACKS.



WITH THE RUBIES AND THE CODE BOOK SAFELY IN HIS PACK, GEORGE PREPARED A FINAL SURPRISE FOR THE JAPANESE BEFORE THEY SET OFF.



SUDDENLY, FROM THE JUNGLE, THERE WAS THE SOUND OF AN EXPLOSION —



LEAVING THE ENEMY TO THEIR EMPTY VICTORY, THE SMALL PARTY OF GUERILLAS FOLLOWED GEORGE INTO THE JUNGLE. BEHIND THEM THEY COULD HEAR ANOTHER EXPLOSION...



BUT THE COMMANDER OF THE PURSUING JAPANESE PATROL WAS SMARTER THAN GEORGE HAD ANTICIPATED, AND HE HAD SENT A SMALL FLANKING PARTY ON AHEAD.

HURRY! IF
THE BANDITS ARE STILL
AT THEIR CAMP WE MUST
CUT OFF THEIR
RETREAT!

THE BURMESE PRISONER HAD OBVIOUSLY TALKED, SO
NOW THE JAPS KNEW THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE
GUERRILLA CAMP.

FORTUNATELY THEY HAD NO TIME TO LAY A PROPER AMBUSH BEFORE GEORGE AND HIS MEN REACHED THEM.

THERE
THEY ARE — AFTER
THEM!

THEY'VE GOT
AHEAD OF US!

GEORGE KNEW THEY HAD TO GET PAST THE JAP FORCE OR THEY WOULD BE TRAPPED—AND THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY . . .



DON GAVE COVERING FIRE AS THEY HEADED FOR SAFETY, BUT MARK FELL WHEN A BULLET HIT HIM IN THE LEG.



THE OTHERS HADN'T NOTICED MARK WAS HIT, BUT LUCKILY DON SAW HIM AND HELPED HIM TO HIS FEET, UNDER PROTEST.



THEY CAUGHT UP WITH THE OTHERS JUST IN TIME AS THE JAPS ATTACKED WITH RENEWED FANATICISM.



AS THE JAPS TRIED TO FOLLOW UP THEY RAN INTO THE CONCENTRATED FIRE OF THE GUERRILLAS.



IT HAD BEEN A LUCKY ESCAPE, ALTHOUGH TWO GUERRILLAS HAD BEEN KILLED IN THE FINAL DASH FOR COVER. AND DON BANDAGED MARK'S LEG WOUND, WHICH WASN'T TOO SERIOUS, BUT WOULD BE BAD ENOUGH TO SLOW THEM DOWN.



THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO KEEP MOVING BEFORE ANY MORE JAPS COULD WORK THEIR WAY AHEAD AGAIN. THEY SET OFF ONCE MORE, WITH MARK BEING CARRIED BY A BURLY GUERRILLA.



HOWEVER THEY WERE SOON CHEERED BY THE ECHOES OF A TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION THAT ERUPTED BEHIND THEM. ANOTHER BOOBY-TRAP HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL.



AND THEY KNEW THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THEIR PURSUITERS WOULD NOT FOLLOW THEM ANY FURTHER.

AS SOON AS HE CONSIDERED IT SAFE, GEORGE CALLED A HALT SO THAT A LITTER COULD BE MADE FOR MARK. HE HIMSELF TOOK THE TIME TO SET ANOTHER TRAP FOR THEIR PURSUITERS.





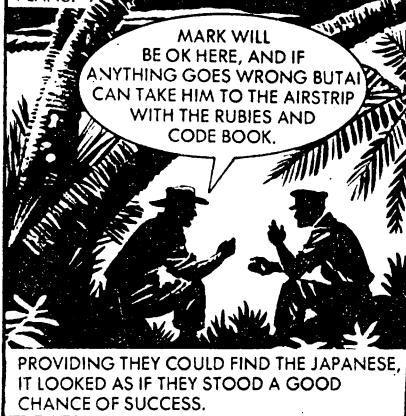
THEY ALL SAT DOWN TO TAKE A WELL-EARNED REST AS DUSK QUICKLY GAVE WAY TO DARKNESS. HOWEVER IT WAS OBVIOUS WHILE THEY WERE EATING THAT GEORGE HAD SOMETHING ON HIS MIND, AND EVENTUALLY HE EXPLAINED.

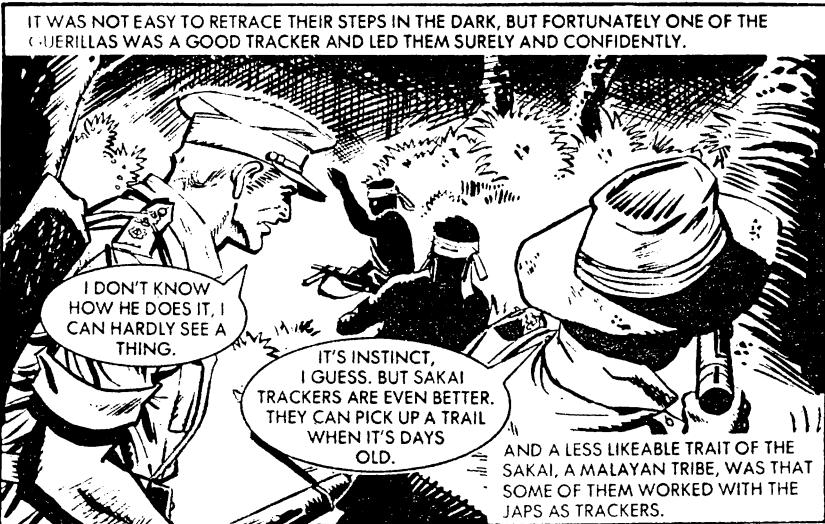


TO DON'S SURPRISE, GEORGE WANTED TO MAKE A NIGHT ATTACK AND TAKE THE JAPS BY SURPRISE.



BEING THE SEASONED CAMPAIGNER THAT HE WAS, GEORGE OBVIOUSLY KNEW WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT, SO DON OFFERED TO JOIN HIM. AND THEY STARTED TO MAKE PLANS.

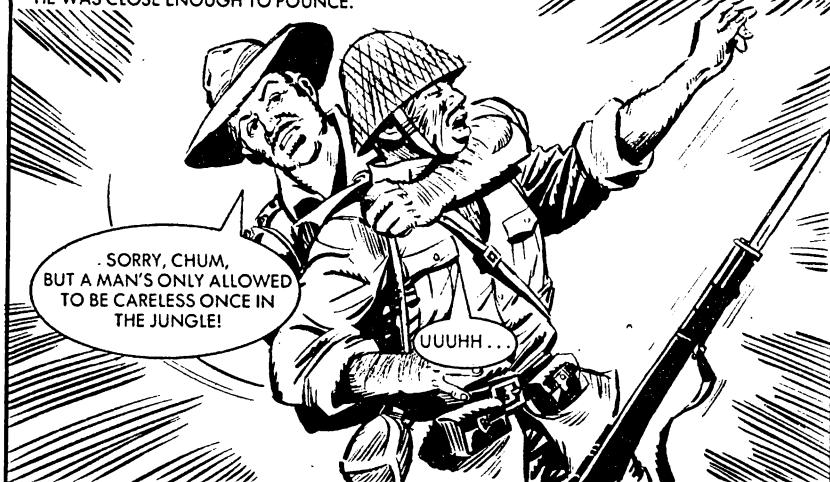




IT TOOK THEM ALMOST AN HOUR TO LOCATE THEIR PURSUITERS, WHO HAD CAMPED ON THE TRACK JUST AS GEORGE HAD PREDICTED.



THE JAPANESE HAD POSTED A SENTRY, BUT GEORGE APPROACHED LIKE A SHADOW UNTIL HE WAS CLOSE ENOUGH TO POUNCE.



MOMENTS LATER THE GUERILLAS WERE MOVING SILENTLY INTO POSITION, READY TO ATTACK.

WHEN THIS GRENADE EXPLODES,
GIVE 'EM EVERYTHING
YOU'VE GOT!

THE EXPLODING GRENADE WAS THE
SIGNAL FOR EVERY GUERRILLA TO EMPTY
HIS GUN INTO THE UNSUSPECTING
JAPANESE.

AAAAAIEEE!
DON'T LET
ANY OF THEM GET
AWAY!

THE ATTACK WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS, BUT SOME OF THE JAPS WHO HAD BEEN SLEEPING IN THE UNDERGROWTH SURVIVED AND MANAGED TO PUT UP SOME RESISTANCE.



THEN TO DON'S DISMAY HE HEARD MORE JAPS WHO HAD BEEN ALERTED IN THE UNDERGROWTH BEHIND THEM.





BUT AS HE TURNED TO FOLLOW THE OTHERS, A BURLY JAPANESE LAUNCHED HIMSELF FROM THE SHADOWS AND DREW A KNIFE, FORCING DON TO THE GROUND.



DESPITE HIS OPPONENT'S STRENGTH, DON WAS JUST GETTING THE UPPER HAND WHEN ANOTHER JAP APPEARED AND RUSHED TO THE RESCUE.



SUDDENLY, JUST AS DON DEALT WITH ONE JAP, THERE WAS A BURST OF AUTOMATIC FIRE FROM THE UNDERGROWTH AND THE NEW ASSAILANT COLLAPSED WITH A GROAN. FORTUNATELY GEORGE HAD RETURNED AND SEEN DON'S PREDICAMENT.



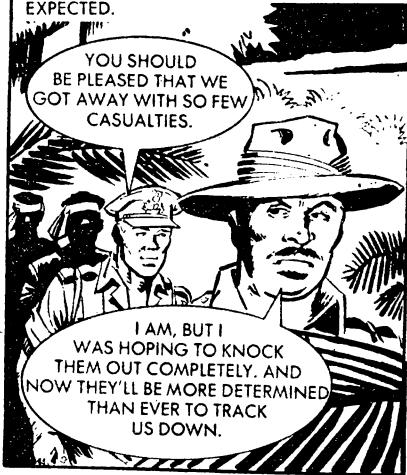
AS MORE JAPANESE CAME RUSHING TO THE SCENE, GEORGE AND DON WITHDREW HASTILY INTO THE DARKNESS. A WELL-AIMED GRENADE ENSURED THEIR SAFE GETAWAY.



GEORGE LED THE WAY CONFIDENTLY, AND MOMENTS LATER A WHISPERED CHALLENGE REVEALED THE PRESENCE OF THE GUERRILLAS.



BUT GEORGE WAS NOT ENTIRELY HAPPY WITH THEIR SUCCESS, FOR THE JAPANESE WERE IN FAR GREATER FORCE THAN HE HAD EXPECTED.



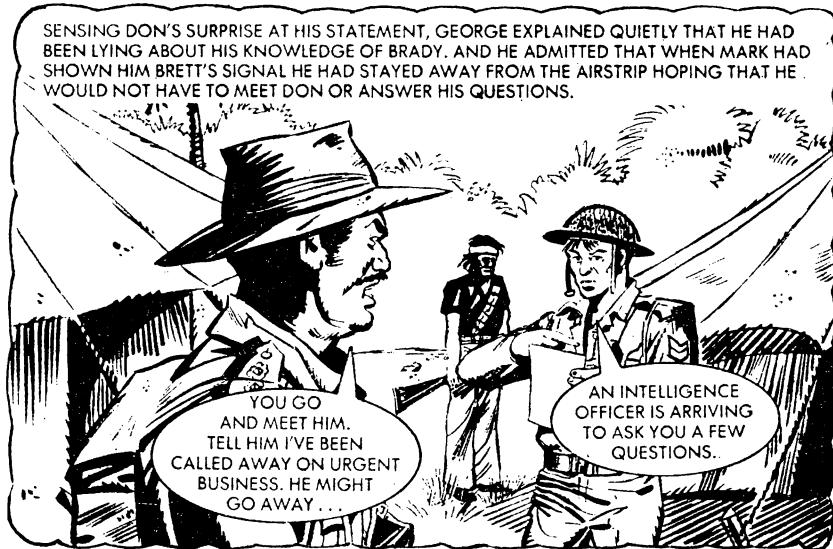
THEY FOUND MARK WAITING ANXIOUSLY WITH HIS STRETCHER-BEARERS, FOR THE SOUND OF FIRING HAD CARRIED ON THE STILL NIGHT AIR TO WHERE THEY HAD HALTED.



MARK SETTLED DOWN TO REST, LEAVING DON AND GEORGE TO FIX THEMSELVES SOME FOOD.



SENSING DON'S SURPRISE AT HIS STATEMENT, GEORGE EXPLAINED QUIETLY THAT HE HAD BEEN LYING ABOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE OF BRADY. AND HE ADMITTED THAT WHEN MARK HAD SHOWN HIM BRETT'S SIGNAL HE HAD STAYED AWAY FROM THE AIRSTRIP HOPING THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE TO MEET DON OR ANSWER HIS QUESTIONS.



THE JAP CODE BOOK, HE SAID, WAS ALREADY AT THE CAMP AND HE HAD JUST USED THAT AS AN EXCUSE FOR HIS DISAPPEARANCE.



AS IF RELIEVED TO NOW BE TELLING THE TRUTH, GEORGE WENT ON TO DESCRIBE HOW HE HAD FIRST MET BRADY THROUGH AN ITALIAN BLACK MARKET CONTACT.



LIKE THE CANADIAN PILOT, GEORGE DEALT WITH THE BUYING AND SELLING OF BLACK-MARKET GOODS, AND THEY BEGAN TALKING.

THERE'S MONEY IN THIS WAR, GEORGE. WITH A BIT OF RISK A MAN COULD BE RICH.



I TAKE ENOUGH RISKS WITH THE JERRIES, CHUM! I'M CONTENT TO MAKE A BIT EXTRA ON THE SIDE DEALING WITH MARIO.

SOON BRADY GOT UP TO LEAVE, BUT IT WAS OBVIOUS HE CONSIDERED GETTING RICH MORE IMPORTANT THAN HIS JOB.

E R M O

WE MUST KEEP IN TOUCH, GEORGE. IF YOU USED YOUR GUERRILLAS PROPERLY YOU COULD WIN YOURSELF A FORTUNE.

NO THANKS, I'D RATHER STICK TO FIDDLING SUPPLIES AND MAKE SURE I DON'T GET CAUGHT.

IT WAS SEVERAL WEEKS BEFORE THEY MET AGAIN. GEORGE HAD RETURNED TO HIS PARTISANS AND THEY WERE TAKING A SUPPLY DROP WHEN SUDDENLY THE LYSANDER PILOT JUMPED OUT AND PARACHUTED DOWN, LEAVING HIS AIRCRAFT TO HEAD STRAIGHT FOR THE DISTANT PEAKS.



LOOK, THE PILOT IS BALING OUT!

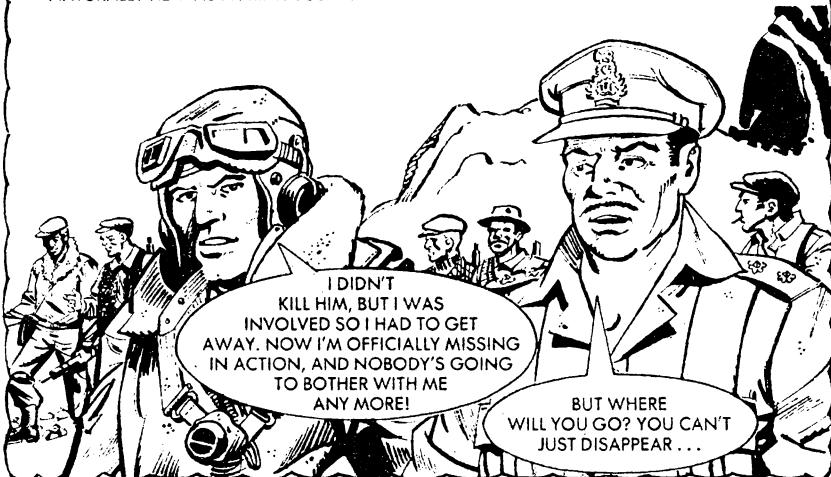


SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG! GET THOSE CONTAINERS STACKED ON TO THE MULES, WHILE I GO AND SEE HIM.

TO GEORGE'S ASTONISHMENT THE PILOT WAS BRADY, WHO EXPLAINED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH THE AIRCRAFT.



BRADY REVEALED THAT MARIO, THE ITALIAN BLACK MARKETEER, HAD BEEN MURDERED AND NATURALLY HE WAS A PRIME SUSPECT.



BRADY TOLD HOW, THROUGH MARIO, HE HAD MADE CONTACT WITH SOME ITALIAN PARTISANS WHO WERE VIRTUALLY BANDITS. THEY WERE OPERATING NEAR GEORGE'S AREA AND ONCE WITH THEM HE COULD CHANGE HIS IDENTITY AND MAKE AN ILLEGAL FORTUNE. ALL HE NEEDED FROM GEORGE WAS HIS PROMISE THAT HE WOULD REMAIN SILENT ABOUT WHAT HE KNEW.



AND FOR HIS TROUBLE, BRADY EXPLAINED THAT GEORGE COULD KEEP THE GOLD BULLION WHICH, ALONG WITH THE SUPPLIES, HAD BEEN PARACHUTED FROM THE LYSANDER FOR THE USE OF THE PARTISANS.



IT WAS TOO TEMPTING FOR GEORGE, AND HE AGREED TO CO-OPERATE. THERE WAS NO PROBLEM WITH HIS PARTISANS WHO HAD NO IDEA OF WHAT WAS REALLY GOING ON.



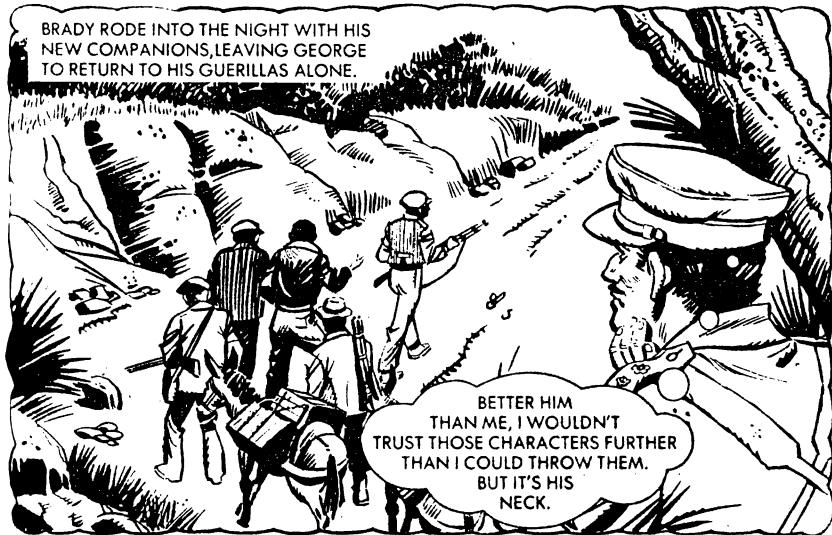
WHEN THE LYSANDER WAS OFFICIALLY REPORTED MISSING, GEORGE WAS ASKED BY THE R.A.F. TO CARRY OUT A SEARCH IN HIS AREA, WHICH, OF COURSE, DID NOT GO AHEAD —



AND AFTER MAKING CONTACT WITH THE VILLAINOUS-LOOKING BANDIT GROUP, GEORGE ESCORTED BRADY TO A MEETING PLACE WHERE THEY WERE WAITING TO PICK HIM UP.



BRADY RODE INTO THE NIGHT WITH HIS NEW COMPANIONS, LEAVING GEORGE TO RETURN TO HIS GUERRILLAS ALONE.





GEORGE WAS ONE OF THE VERY FEW TO ESCAPE, FIGHTING HIS WAY THROUGH THE ATTACKERS AS THEY CLOSED IN.

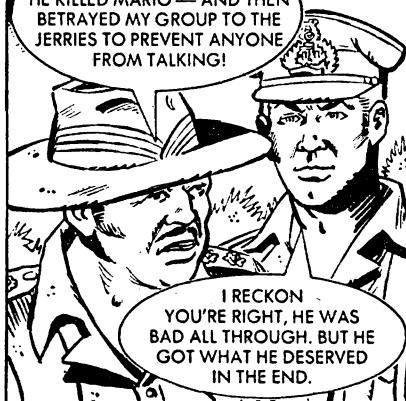


AFTER AN ARDUOUS JOURNEY BACK TO THE BRITISH LINES, GEORGE WAS GIVEN LEAVE AND THEN POSTED TO A STAFF JOB IN INDIA, AS HIS PARTISAN GROUP HAD BEEN GREATLY DEPLETED.



AT THE MENTION OF BRADY'S NAME, GEORGE'S LIP CURLED INTO A SCORNFUL SNEER.

THAT SKUNK!
I DON'T DOUBT THAT
HE KILLED MARIO — AND THEN
BETRAYED MY GROUP TO THE
JERRIES TO PREVENT ANYONE
FROM TALKING!



I RECKON
YOU'RE RIGHT, HE WAS
BAD ALL THROUGH. BUT HE
GOT WHAT HE DESERVED
IN THE END.

ONLY ONE THING STILL PUZZLED DON —
WHY GEORGE HAD CONFESSED WHEN HE
COULD HAVE REMAINED SILENT.

WAS IT
BECAUSE I SAW YOU
WITH THE RUBIES THAT YOU
INTENDED TO STEAL?

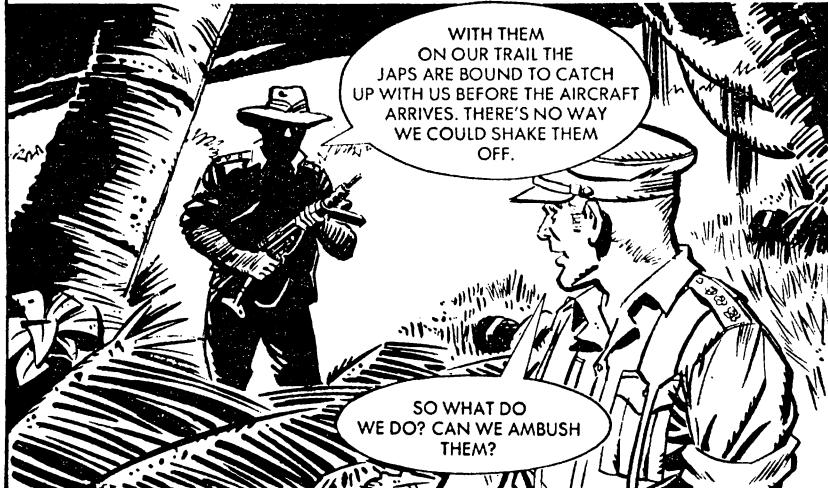


NO, YOU
COULD NEVER HAVE
PROVED WE WERE GOING TO
KEEP THEM. IT'S JUST THAT
IT DOESN'T MATTER
ANY MORE . . .

WITH A GRIM SMILE, GEORGE EXPLAINED THAT DURING THE ATTACK ON THE JAPS HE HAD SEEN SOME SAKAI TRACKERS WITH THEM — AND THAT MEANT NO ESCAPE.

WITH THEM
ON OUR TRAIL THE
JAPS ARE BOUND TO CATCH
UP WITH US BEFORE THE AIRCRAFT
ARRIVES. THERE'S NO WAY
WE COULD SHAKE THEM
OFF.

SO WHAT DO
WE DO? CAN WE AMBUSH
THEM?



GEORGE'S SOLUTION TO THEIR PROBLEM WAS A GRIM ONE —

THERE'S ONLY
ONE WAY — YOU'RE
GOING TO GET MARK AND THE
CODE BOOK ON THE SENTINEL. AND I'M
STAYING HERE WITH MY MEN TO
DELAY THE JAPS!

BUT THEY'LL
SURROUND YOU . . . IT
WOULD BE SUICIDE . . .

AT LAST DON REALISED GEORGE KNEW THAT HIS
CONFESION COULD DO HIM NO HARM AS HE
WOULD NOT SURVIVE.

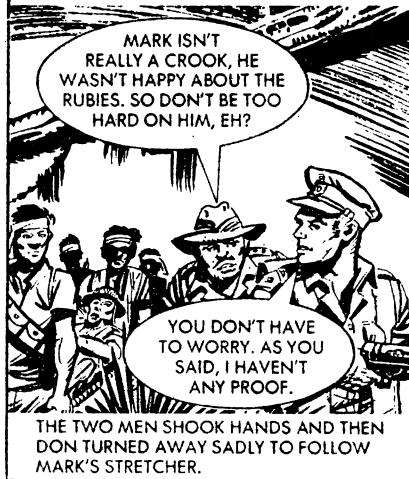
DON PROTESTED BUT GEORGE WOULD NOT
LISTEN TO ANY ARGUMENT, AND JUST BEFORE
DAWN HE ROUSED HIS MEN AND EXPLAINED
HIS PLAN.

LOOK, GEORGE,
I DON'T HAVE TO GO
WITH MARK. AN EXTRA
GUN MIGHT MAKE ALL
THE DIFFERENCE . . .

THANKS, PAL,
BUT I'LL MANAGE.
YOU JUST GET THE RUBIES
AND THE CODE BOOK
TO BRETT.

FINALLY ACCEPTING GEORGE'S DECISION,
DON PREPARED TO LEAVE WITH THE
WOUNDED MARK AND A FEW OF THE
GUERRILLAS.

BUT JUST AS THEY SET OFF GEORGE CALLED DON BACK FOR A FINAL WORD.



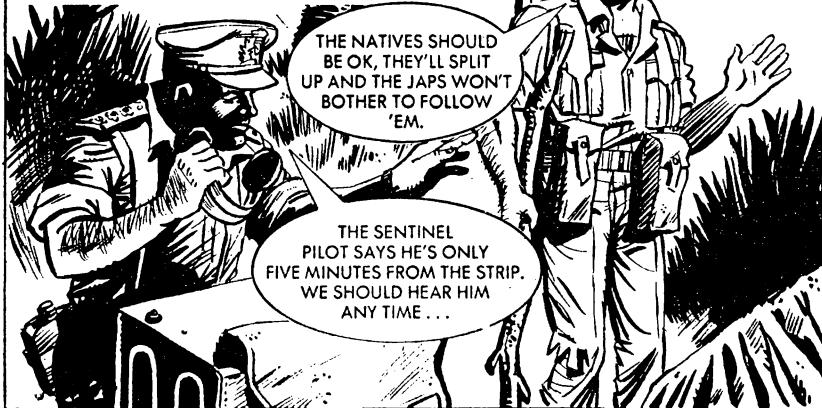
THE SMALL PARTY HAD NOT GONE FAR WHEN
THERE WAS A SUDDEN OUTBREAK OF SMALL-
ARMS FIRE BEHIND THEM.



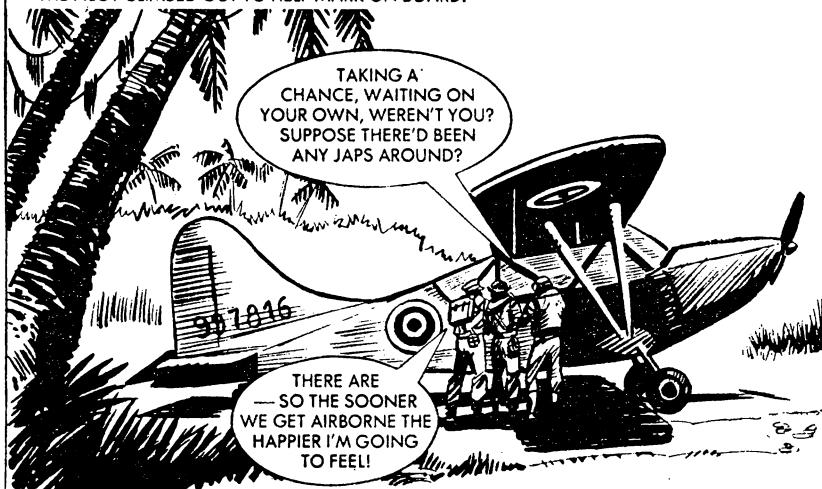
THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE CONTINUED UNTIL THEY HAD ALMOST REACHED THE AIRSTRIP —
THEN THERE WAS AN OMINOUS SILENCE.



DON THEN ORDERED BUTAI AND THE BEARERS TO LEAVE, FOR THERE WAS NOTHING FURTHER THEY COULD DO TO HELP, WITH MARK NOW ABLE TO USE AN IMPROVISED CRUTCH. DON MADE CONTACT WITH THE APPROACHING AIRCRAFT ON THE RADIO SET THEY HAD BROUGHT WITH THEM —



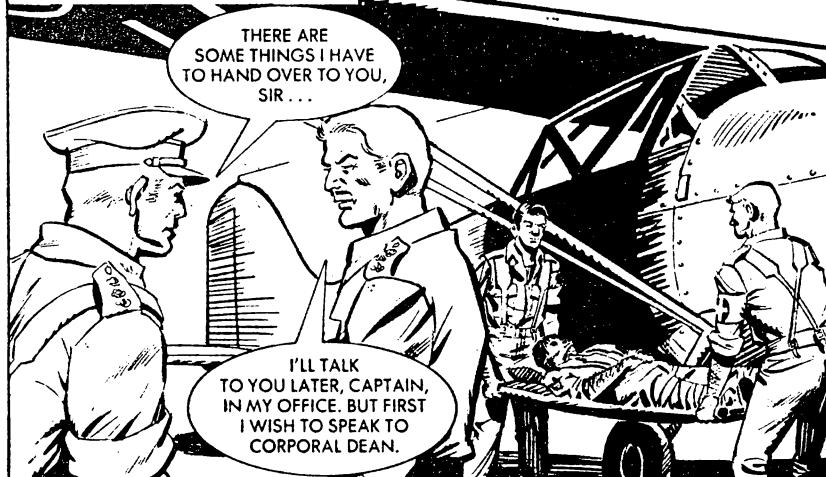
AFTER WHAT SEEMED AN AGE, THE SENTINEL CAME IN TO A PERFECT LANDING. THE PILOT CLIMBED OUT TO HELP MARK ON BOARD.



THEY WERE JUST IN TIME, FOR AS THE SENTINEL GATHERED SPEED AND BEGAN TO CLIMB, THE JAPS BURST INTO THE CLEARING AND OPENED FIRE.



THE RETURN FLIGHT TO G.H.Q. WAS BUMPY BUT UNEVENTFUL, AND COLONEL BRETT WAS WAITING FOR THEM AT THE AIRFIELD.



DON WAS KEPT WAITING FOR HALF AN HOUR,
BEFORE HE WAS ABLE TO HAND THE CODE BOOK AND
RUBIES TO THE COLONEL.



AT LEAST YOU'VE
BEEN OF SOME USE. BUT I
HOPE YOU SEE NOW WHAT A NUISANCE
YOU HEADQUARTERS PEOPLE ARE
TO THE ONES WHO ARE DOING
THE FIGHTING!

I HAVE A
JOB TO DO AS WELL,
SIR ...

APPARENTLY MARK HAD GIVEN AN ACCOUNT OF DON'S ACTIONS AGAINST THE JAPS,
WHICH LUCKILY PREVENTED THE CAPTAIN FROM GETTING INTO TROUBLE WITH BRETT.



SO UNDER THE
CIRCUMSTANCES I SHALL
TAKE NO FURTHER NOTICE
OF THE FACT THAT YOU DISOBeyed
MY ORDERS. BUT LET THIS
BE A LESSON TO
YOU.

IT WILL BE,
SIR, I CAN ASSURE YOU.
FROM NOW ON I'LL LEAVE
THE FIGHTING TO THE
INFANTRY!

DON'S STAFF OFFICER FRIEND WAS WAITING AS HE LEFT THE COLONEL'S OFFICE, WITH SOME GOOD NEWS.

I'VE GOT YOU A SEAT ON AN AIRCRAFT LEAVING IN A FEW MINUTES. AND I'VE SIGNALLED THE BRENTSHIRES THAT YOU'LL BE PAYING THEM A BRIEF VISIT.

THANKS, I'LL GIVE YOUR REGARDS TO PIGGY MASON WHEN I SEE HIM!

THERE WAS JUST TIME FOR A FEW WORDS WITH MARK WHO WAS ALREADY MAKING PLANS FOR HIS FUTURE AS HE LAY RESTING IN A HOSPITAL BED.

STRICTLY OFF THE RECORD, MARK, I'VE HEARD THAT THEY'RE PROMOTING YOU TO SERGEANT AS SOON AS YOU GET OUT OF HERE.

AND THEN I'M GOING STRAIGHT BACK TO GUERRILLA WORK, SIR — BUT THIS TIME I'M HAVING NOTHING TO DO WITH RUBIES!

AFTER A WARM HANDSHAKE DON LEFT FOR THE AIRFIELD.

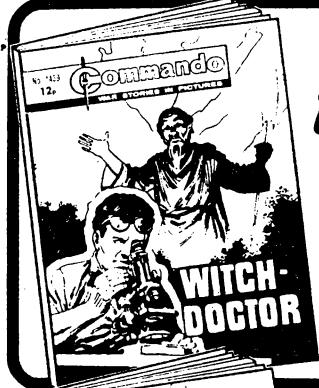
AS HE BOARDED THE DAKOTA THAT WOULD TAKE HIM TO VISIT HIS OLD FRIENDS IN THE BRENTSHIRE'S, DON HAD EVERY REASON TO FEEL PLEASED WITH HIMSELF. FOR HE HAD CLEARED UP A MYSTERY AND HAD FOUGHT THE JAPS — AND IN HIS POCKET HE HAD A MAP GEORGE HAD GIVEN HIM SHOWING WHERE THE MISSING BULLION WAS HIDDEN IN ITALY.



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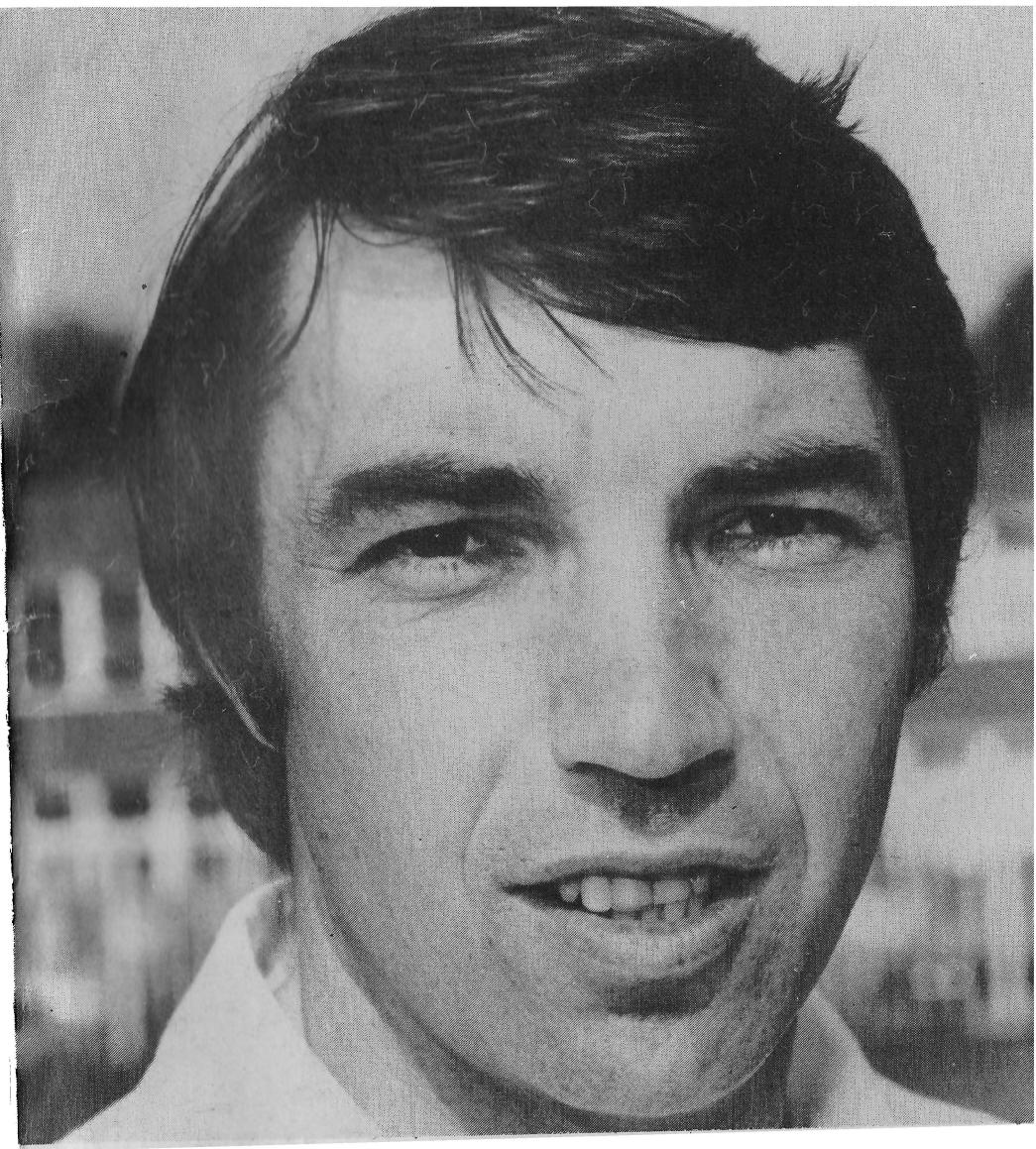


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